

VZCZCXRO1629
OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #3015 3020759
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 290759Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6837
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY 3504
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1439
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6198
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1020
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1936
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 003015

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, DRL/AWH, EAP/MLS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/29/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: PAPUA -- ACTIVIST DETAINED; MISSION EXPRESSES
CONCERN

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph Legend Novak for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: The Indonesian National Police (INP) have arrested a well-known Papuan human rights activist. The INP claims the activist--who is now in detention in Jakarta after being transferred from Papua--sent "defamatory messages." Pol/C has expressed concern about the case to the GOI. END SUMMARY.

ARREST OF ACTIVIST

12. (C) The INP arrested Iwanngin Sabar Olif--a Papuan human rights activist and volunteer lawyer for the human rights advocacy group Els-ham Papua--for sending "defamatory messages" regarding Indonesian officials and spreading "terrorist messages" via short-message-services (SMS). (Note: Els-ham Papua is a well-known human rights advocacy NGO. In the past, it has defended a number of Papuan independence activists.) Contacts report that Olif was arrested in Jayapura, Papua, on October 18; police officials publicly announced the arrest on October 24. The police transported Olif to Jakarta on October 25 for further questioning. Olif's supporters claim he was not the source of the messages and that the charges are politically-motivated and linked to his human rights efforts.

A STRANGE SMS

13. (SBU) The INP says that the SMS message that Olif allegedly sent to some Papuan contacts read:

"New information, be on the alert, SBY (the initials of President Yudhoyono) has already ordered the elimination (of) the people of Papua to take control of the natural resources of their land. The methods to be used to eliminate the Papuan people are food poisoning, hired doctors, hired food stalls, hired motorbike taxis, hired drivers and ABRI (former name for the Indonesian Armed Forces)--forward this quickly to the whole community of Papua before it is too late."

KEY ANTI-TERROR SQUAD INVOLVED?

14. (C) Initial press reports claimed that SD-88, an elite anti-terror strike force, had made the arrest. National SD-88 chief Brigadier General (police) Bekto Suprpto told poloff that the INP's Jakarta-based Criminal Investigation Division (CID) made the arrest, not SD-88. The anti-terror

squad,s Papuan intelligence unit had been present during the arrest, but only in a back-up capacity. Suprpto confirmed that Olif was being investigated for possibly "defaming" the Indonesian president.

EXPRESSING CONCERN

¶5. (C) Pol/C has expressed concern about the case. In an October 26 meeting with Pol/C, Albert Matondang, a high-level official in the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, confirmed that he had heard of the case, but did not have any details. Pol/C also flagged concern in conversations with Department of Foreign Affairs contacts. Pol/C noted that we would appreciate any further information about the arrest, commenting that the case was bound to spark concerns among Papuans and human rights groups. Pol/C underscored that the GOI should carefully review the grounds for the arrest, and whether such detention was warranted based on the law and the facts.

THE FOG OF PAPUA

¶6. (C) Events related to Papua are almost always shrouded in fog and, true to form, what exactly is going on here is difficult to ascertain with much precision. It seems possible that Olif has transgressed some Indonesian law regarding defamation. At the same time, it is possible he is being singled out in some way, perhaps for his activist agenda. Mission will continue to inquire about the case.
HUME